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UW Lets Them Look

Record Viewers Still Displeased

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(Of The State Journal Staff)

Two University of Wisconsin graduate students told administrators Monday that new procedures for public inspection of contracts still allowed the university to withhold information that should be open.

Although the students were allowed to examine a contract between the university and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Monday, they said procedures for the public inspection of related documents would still allow the university to pull out information before handing them over.

Want Student Voice

Robert Cohen, Levittown, Pa., and John Coatsworth, Madison, said they would push for the establishment of a student-faculty committee which would screen all such information and withhold only material of a personal nature.

The new inspection procedures were approved Friday by the Board of Regents after Cohen made two unsuccessful attempts to look at the CIA contract last week.

Chancellor Robben W. Fleming told Cohen he would have to wait for regent approval of an inspection system.

The regents ruled that the administration "make available, on reasonable request, during hours, and under proper custodial regulations, such documents as are deemed subject to inspection within the intent of the laws of the state."

State law allows contracts and related documents to be open under terms set forth by the

regents.

'No Fishing Expedition'

University Pres. Fred Harvey Harrington told the regents Friday that although state law provides for public viewing of documents, the university is also "heavily in the business of protecting students and others. We don't look at the law as a fishing expedition."

Under the procedures set up, requests for related contract information, such as subcontracts, progress reports, personnel involved, and the specific direction of the projects, must be made in writing to the university.

If there are reservations about releasing the information, Fleming—and if he wishes, the regents—will decide what can be released.

Cohen and Coatsworth would like to see the student-faculty committee make such determinations.

Several left-wing campus groups have demanded to inspect university contracts relating to the war in Vietnam.

Cohen said Monday he was considering legal action to open up the complete files.

'I Don't Trust You'

In a meeting with Benben

Lorenz, assistant university vice-president and business manager, Cohen said, "I don't trust you, I don't trust the university. At what point do I get public inspection?"

He said photostatic copies of contracts and records could be "total shams."

Lorenz told Cohen and Coatsworth that the university had nothing to hide but that they had never run into a request for public inspection of the records. He said this may be the cause for the objections to the procedure.

Cohen told reporters that "the university was operating illegally" by not setting up inspection procedures earlier. He said, "They show nothing but contempt for the public."

The CIA contract inspected Monday went into effect in 1962 and was terminated last year. Under its terms the chemistry department was to investigate East European and Russian scientific papers on thermal dynamics.

Fred H. Harrington
CIA 2-04.2 Students